

May 15, 1975

SENATOR DICKINSON: In regard to knowing when you'll return, Senator Luedtke, this would be presumptuous for them to make this determination when a person will enter prison because he or she could not predetermine their behavior. I would assume that they know when they're going to get out now, if they know they're going to go in and not have any violations put against them while they're in prison.

SENATOR LUEDTKE: Senator Dickinson, you didn't listen to me.

SENATOR DICKINSON: Well I tried.

SENATOR LUEDTKE: Let me tell you I didn't say it's not presumptive. All it is saying is that when you enter this institution, if you keep your nose clean, if you behave yourself then you will get out on a certain date.

SENATOR DICKINSON: Are you telling me they don't know that now?

SENATOR LUEDTKE: No they do not, because they don't ...

SENATOR DICKINSON: I can't understand this.

SENATOR LUEDTKE: I'll tell you why you don't understand it and why Senator Syas doesn't understand it, and why I don't understand it, because there's only one person in this state that says he can figure out the present law and the formula for good time. It's simply impossible. You ask Director Vitek. You ask Warden Parrot. You ask the people that work out there. You ask the working press that's tried to figure it out. Nobody understands it!

SENATOR DICKINSON: Thank you.

SENATOR SAVAGE: Senator Schmit.

SENATOR SCHMIT: Mr. President, members of the Legislature. I, like Senator Syas, did not serve on the committee when much of this work was done. I did sit through several of the hearings. I think that I spent as much time on my own as I could possibly afford. I met with Mr. Neal who had some objections to the original bill. He came to my office early one morning and we spent a considerable amount of time. Senator DeCamp and Senator Anderson I think perhaps have labored as long and hard as any two members ever have on a single piece of legislation in an attempt to work out something that was acceptable both to society and to the inmates. I think Director Vitek and Warden Parrot have shown an exemplary amount of cooperation in this matter. They have worked with Senator Anderson and Senator DeCamp, and the rest of the members of the committee. As Senator Luedtke has pointed out, there is no one ... and it takes a little bit of explaining for me to understand it, but I was totally confused. Then I felt relieved when I found that there was no one in the State of Nebraska who could really agree upon what good time meant. Therefore, it took a superhuman effort, I believe, on the part of members of the committee